

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:SGEORGE:RF

APPROVED BY EUR MR. HARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY GDR AMBASSADOR

GDR AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SIEBER ACCOMPANIED BY DCM ELM PAID COURTESY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN DECEMBER 19. SIEBER HANDED OVER LETTER FROM ACTING FONMIN GRUNERT INVITING HARTMAN VISIT GDR AS HIS GUEST IN 1975. HARTMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, SAID HE HOPED VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED SOMETIME IN FUTURE. FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WERE COVERED:

BEIL VISIT: HARTMAN SAID HE AWARE OF GDR INTEREST IN EARLY VISIT DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER, BUT WE FEEL HIGH-LEVEL VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE, SINCE IT MIGHT AROUSE EXPECTATIONS NOT POSSIBLE FULFILL AND THEREBY SET BACK RATHER THAN HELP US-GDR RELATIONS. WE THINK IT BETTER WORK AT QUESTIONS BEFORE US, MAKING SOLID STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEFORE CONSIDERING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS. GDR SIDE DID NOT

SPECIFICALLY CONTEST THIS, ALTHOUGH ELM SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE MOVING QUICKLY ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST SUCH AS TRADE, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SAID GDR AT HIGHEST LEVELS WISHES BEST POSSIBLE US-GDR RELATIONS, AND SAID HE HOPED WE COULD AGREE TO VISIT AT EARLY DATE. HARTMAN

REITERATED OUR OWN GOOD WILL AND DESIRE MOVE FORWARD ON SOUND STEP BY STEP BASIS.

CONSULAR CONVENTION: HARTMAN THANKED SIEBER FOR GDR DRAFT RECENTLY GIVEN US, SAID WE WOULD PROVIDE OUR DRAFT NEXT WEEK, AND THAT WE WOULD BE READY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY.

TRADE BILL: IN RESPONSE TO SIEBER REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF TRADE BILL, HARTMAN SAID WE NOT IN POSSESSION OF EXACT LANGUAGE SOME KEY PROVISIONS WORKED OUT IN CONFERENCE, AND THAT FINAL ACTION BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS NOT YET TAKEN, HENCE HE UNABLE TALK ABOUT BILL IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY AT THIS TIME, WOULD BE GLAD DO SO WHEN CONGRESSIONAL ACTION CONCLUDED.

HUMANITARIAN CASES: HARTMAN SAID DEBATE OVER TRADE BILL HAS BEEN INDICATIVE OF CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY NOT MERELY ABOUT SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION, BUT ALSO ABOUT FAMILY REUNIFICATION, EXIT FOR PURPOSE GETTING MARRIED, ETC. AND EXPRESSED HOPE GDR COULD ACT ON HUMANITARIAN CASES LIST GIVEN THEM IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE GOOD EFFECT ON US-GDR RELATIONS. ELM SAID GDR WOULD HAVE INFORMATION FOR US ON SOME OF CASES BEFORE TOO LONG. KISSINGER

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